

Part 13



Listen to the idioms together with their Polish translations. Repeat each idiom after the speaker. Then listen to the sentence that indicates how to use it properly.

get to grips with

wziąć się za

It's high time to try and get to grips with our safety policy.

Najwyższy czas spróbować wziąć się za naszą strategię bezpieczeństwa.

come down on one side of the fence or the other

opowiedzieć się po którejś stronie

Let's give them some time. Sooner or later they will have to come down on one side of the fence or the other.

Dajmy im trochę czasu. Prędzej czy później będą musieli opowiedzieć się po którejś stronie.

know which side one's bread is buttered on

wiedzieć, co jest w czyimś interesie

Don't worry, she knows which side her bread is buttered on, she won't cause any trouble.

Nie martw się, ona wie, co jest w jej interesie, nie będzie sprawiać kłopotów.

land on your feet

spaść na cztery łapy

No matter what kind of trouble he manages to get himself into, he always lands on his feet in the end.

Nieważne, w jakie kłopoty uda mu się wpakować, zawsze w końcu spada na cztery łapy.

have butterflies in one's stomach

być zdenerwowanym, mieć tremę

Jeff had butterflies in his stomach before delivering his speech.

Jeff bardzo się denerwował przed swoją przemową.

blow sth out of proportion

rozdmuchać coś nadmiernie

The situation isn't as serious as it seems in the official reports. The press tend to blow things out of all proportion.

Sytuacja nie jest tak poważna, jak wynikałoby z oficjalnych doniesień. Prasa ma tendencję do nadmiernego rozdmuchiwania wydarzeń.

bone of contention

kość niezgody

The region has been a bone of contention between the two countries for several hundred years now.

Ten region jest kością niezgody między tymi dwoma krajami od kilkuset lat.

by and large

ogólnie rzecz biorąc

We disagree on a couple of issues but by and large our political views are concurrent.

W kilku kwestiach się zgadzamy, ale, ogólnie rzecz biorąc, nasze poglądy polityczne są zbieżne.

call a spade a spade

nazywać rzeczy po imieniu

The governor is known for being uncompromising and always calling a spade a spade.

Gubernator jest znany z bezkompromisowości i z tego, że zawsze nazywa rzeczy po imieniu.

below the belt

poniżej pasa

Why are you so surprised? He's a politician, and he'll always hit below the belt, it's his job.

Czemu tak się dziwisz? To polityk, zawsze będzie rozdawał ciosy poniżej pasa, to jego praca.



Now listen to the short text. Listen carefully and pay special attention to idioms that appear in this recording.

No, no, I think you are blowing this whole situation out of proportion. I realize that his comments were somewhat below the belt, but this issue has been a bone of contention between you two for a long time now. It's time to bury the hatchet and get on with our lives.

EXERCISES



Translate into Polish:

- get to grips with – wziąć się za coś
- come down on one side of the fence or the other – opowiedzieć się po którejś stronie
- know which side one's bread is buttered on – wiedzieć, co jest w czymś interesie
- by and large – ogólnie rzecz biorąc

Say it in English:

- spaść na cztery łapy – land on your feet
- być zdenerwowanym, mieć tremę – have butterflies in one's stomach
- nazywać rzeczy po imieniu – call a spade a spade
- poniżej pasa – below the belt

Write the verb in the correct form.

1. After a few months of debates they finally to grips with the situation.
2. Have you spoken to Marry? As usual she the figures way out of proportion.
3. To remind former addicts of their drug problem is to below the belt.
4. Her mouth was dry, knees were shaking. She butterflies in her stomach.
5. Tom takes the most awful risks, but he always on his feet.
6. Lucy always keeps close to her boss. She's smart and which side her bread is buttered on.
7. It took them quite a while but they finally came to terms with reality and a spade a spade.
8. In the recent election they finally had to down on one side of the fence or other.